

Reformation and Restoration

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INTRODUCTION

The devastation caused by the pagan Roman Catholic infiltration of the church that resulted in the feudalism of the Dark Ages was the equivalent to what happened to Israel in the Babylonian captivity. The people of Europe were denied the Word of God, denied true apostles and prophets, denied their land and made to serve the false idols of the Catholic church and made serfs to their feudal overlords. Poverty, sickness, ignorance and brutal living conditions were their way of life.

But God commanded His people in Rev. 18, “Come out of Babylon...” and like the Israelites coming out of Babylon in 533 BC, God gave His church the same agenda as the Israelites in 533 BC. Possess the land, rebuild Jerusalem, rebuild the Temple, restore the priesthood... return to the Word of God. And the results would be the same for Europe and the world as it was to Israel. Blessing, prosperity, dominion, knowledge and understanding, restoration of families, worship and God’s blessing on the nations.

Starting in 1517 with the launch of the Reformation, the church led the world out of Babylonian captivity. The restoration of the Word of God to mankind and the preaching of the gospel resulted in the destruction of feudalism, the scientific revolution, the industrial revolution, the restoration of individual liberty and dignity and the greatest defeat of poverty, sickness, ignorance and servitude in the long history of mankind. The preaching of the gospel to all the world after 1517 was indeed like leaven that was spreading the blessings of Abraham to all the families of the earth as God promised. But the work is not yet done and we have a long way to go, but the battle against Mystery Babylon has started and we the church of Jesus Christ will finish the job...

Paul and John warned the church that false teachers and false prophets would infiltrate the church. It was not long after the death of the apostles that the church went into captivity to Mystery Babylon. For the last 500 years the war against Mystery Babylon has been fought on three fronts. These three fronts have been the equivalent of God’s call on Israel when they came out of Babylon to:

- Rebuild the Temple and the priesthood
- Rebuild the city of Jerusalem
- Possess the land

Let me explain how each of these were intended to work out in history:

A. Rebuilding the Temple and the Priesthood

This meant from the time of the Reformation the church has had through the years to rediscover the true doctrines of the Bible, restore the true leadership of the five-fold ministry to the church and restore true worship to the church. All of these had been lost to the church through the infiltration of the pagan cult of the Roman Catholic church, that “man of sin” who stood in the Temple of God. As prophesied they made war against the saints and overcame them until the time came that the saints possessed the kingdom. This time of possessing the kingdom started with the Reformation.

B. Rebuilding the City

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The returning Jews were commanded to restore and rebuild Jerusalem. The cities of Israel were the responsibility of the Levites who had no land allocated to them. But Joshua gave them 42 cities in Israel. The ministry of the Levites was to do with teaching, justice, health, education. They created the social infrastructure of the nation. For the Reformation, once the gospel had gone forth restoring the ministry of the church and its leadership, then the Levitic ministry of science, technology, education, health and social justice could also begin to flourish.

C. Possessing the Land

The land represented the economy of the nation, the productive part of the nation that had to produce the prosperity for everyone to enjoy so that everyone can fulfill their callings. God had set out clear guidelines in His Word to Israel in the Torah as to how Israel was to run their economy and their politics. If they followed God's guidance there would be prosperity for all. If they did not, they would have servitude, poverty and disease. The Reformation preaching produced profound changes to Europe that resulted in the greatest explosion of prosperity in the history of the world.

Why the West and not the Rest?

I have started to watch a fascinating documentary series on TV called "Civilization" and presented by Prof. Niall Ferguson the distinguished Oxford and Harvard historian. I read his book, "Civilization: The West and the Rest" in which he tries to explain the central problem for historians: Why the West and not the rest? He forms it this way: "...the rise of Western civilization is the single most important historical phenomenon of the second half of the second millennium after Christ. It is a statement of the obvious. The challenge is to explain how it happened." And his book and many others on the same theme try to explain this phenomenon. He has six reasons for the dominance of Western civilization. I have one: **The preaching of the Gospel of the Kingdom and its effect on the world.**

This is an important issue for those who wish to understand the gospel of the Kingdom and what the Lord is doing in the earth today. It is also important for the future because if I am right then the further the western world moves away from the Biblical roots of civilization, the closer comes the day it returns to the barbarism from which it came from.

The problem for historians is this. Up until about 1500 AD all nations and all civilizations around the world had about the same level of development by any measure you wish to use. Health of the people, food availability, technology, mobility and so forth. In fact Ferguson makes a good point that through the 1400's China was somewhat more developed than England or Europe at the time. But what was common everywhere is that average life expectancy was about 37, large percentages of children died before their 5th birthday. Life was incredibly hard, short and brutish. Food was limited, crime rampant, with no real legal protections. Property rights were almost non-existent except for the clergy and nobility. Land was the chief source of economic activity and most of it was owned by nobility or clergy who remained tax free leaving tax burdens on the peasants. Illiteracy and ignorance was universal, superstition rampant. This state of affairs was universal.

The system of government world wide was some form of feudalism. The king or emperor was divine. There was always some sort of clergy who would declare this to be the will of heaven or destiny or whatever. The king or emperor would divide up the productive assets of the nation, the land, between his supporting nobles and the fawning clergy. The peasants serve their divinely ordained masters. This was true whether in Europe, China, India or the America's.

But after 1500 something happened in Europe that broke this feudalistic model of civilization. From 1500-2000 the small enclave of northern Europe rapidly developed to such an extent that it came to absolutely dominate the world. What was it? Ferguson using modern techno jargon says the West downloaded six "apps" that

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changed the world: Competition, Science, Property, Consumption, and the Work ethic. Well yes, but wholly unconvincing. Ferguson makes his books always interesting with all the many interesting historical anecdotes to try to support his thesis which I find fascinating. But his central problem is this: He is confusing fruits and roots. Let me explain:

Science: Yes Europe far outstripped the rest of the world in scientific discoveries but why? What created the environment for men to create new discoveries that was different from other places in the world?

Medicine: Yes but same as above.

Property: Yes but the right to private property comes from a concept of law and that concept of law comes from where?

Consumption: Yes we created a consumer society that drives the economy but before there can be consumption there must be production. What caused the rise of industrial production in the west and not the rest?

Work Ethic: Please Prof. Ferguson, if hard work alone was the key to civilization then the Chinese would have been the world beaters.

These six “apps” I agree were all wonderful aids to Western civilization but they did not cause it. They all came from the one central cause of Western civilization which was this:

The publication and dissemination of the Word of God in the language of the people starting in the late 1400's and mass produced by the newly invented Gutenberg press and widely disseminated among the common people resulted in what we call the Reformation of the 1500's. To put it in modern tech language: The publishing of the Bible, the Word of God provided a free “open source” new operating system by which to run a new civilization. This new operating system was written by the One who made the world in the first place and soon everyone who downloaded it found that their world worked far better if you applied it. This new operating system came with downloadable apps such as salvation of the soul, instructions sets on government, law, economics, human

rights, family, work, ethics etc. Everyone who applied these apps soon found profound changes in the human condition.

The Destruction of Feudalism



The central effect (apart from salvation) of the Reformation that allowed all the other advances to be made: The destruction of Feudalism.

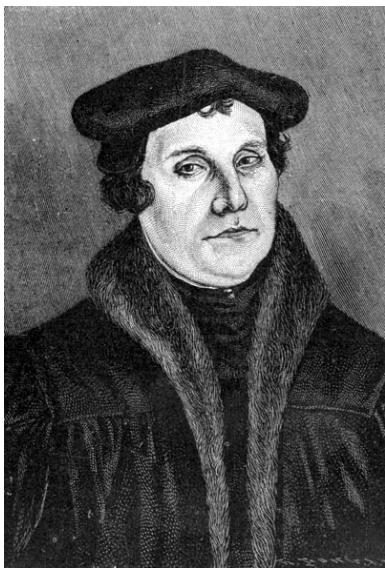
The core idea of all Feudalistic systems is the “divine right” of the ruler to ownership of the land and the people who were “subjects”. This ownership structure is supported by the priestly class and the nobility who are given assets to control by the ruler. A ruler marries a prince and she brings a dowry of land assets and people with her.

The revelation of the Word of God gave divine insight to the two towering figures of the Protestant Reformation, Luther and Calvin, that enabled them to destroy the twin pillars of the Feudalistic order of Europe: The apostate Roman Catholic Church and the concept of the “Divine Rights of Kings.” When the authority of king and church were destroyed by the

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revelation of the Gospel of the Kingdom, the liberation of Europe could start.

Luther and Rome



The power and hold of the Catholic church on the people of Europe was based on its exclusive right to dispense salvation on earth. The means of salvation was the “eating of the body of Christ” which was performed at the Mass through the power of the priest to perform the rite of trans-substantiation. When Luther preached salvation by faith alone and the priesthood of the believer this effectively destroyed the hold the priests had over the populace. That hold was based on fear of hell which only the priest could provide an escape from. Now every person had direct access to God through faith with no mediation needed by the priestly class and no need for bribes known as “indulgences” to get forgiveness of sins. Luther’s further stance that the Word of God alone is the basis of all authority further undermined the legitimacy of the Church and its claim to universal truth.

Calvin and King

Calvinism is famous for its doctrine of “election”, that is to say that before the foundations of the world the Lord foreknew His saints and elected them to salvation by His will

alone. This to us today seems an arcane theological dispute. But in the world of feudal Europe this was a dangerous idea. At that time the supreme authority of the king was based on his unique “election” by God through birth and inheritance. The king alone was elect of God and thus came his “divine right by election”.

For common peasants to declare they are elect, chosen and loved of God from before their birth places them in a similar privileged position. Other “elect” of God therefore also have divine callings, therefore also have rights that originate from God and not the whim of the king.

These two powerful ideas had consequences. Geneva broke away from the Duchy of Savoy and Calvin and the elders declared themselves an independent city. The United Provinces of the Netherlands became a haven for those persecuted by the Catholic church through their agent the king of Spain and his mighty empire. The Protestants rallied there and fought for their independence strengthened by their faith and their “election” in Christ and their firm belief the Pope was the Antichrist and their cause righteous. After Holland won their independence they became the world economic center of power in the 1600’s.

When Charles I in England refused to accept the radical ideas of the Puritans with regard to what they believed to be their Christian rights as revealed in the Bible it resulted in the English Civil War. In essence it was a war of Presbyterians against the Church of England. A war between two ideas, the “divine right of kings” to rule or what we today call ‘the rule of law.’ Cromwell’s New Model Army that defeated Charles was an army of Puritan’s who believed they were fighting for their rights as revealed by the Bible which they all read and revered. The divine rights of kings was defeated in that war and the primacy of the rule of law in the form of the Parliament of the people won the day. The world was changed from that moment on.

These people did not fight feudalism from reading Plato’s Republic or studying Greek democracy! Their belief system came from the

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Bible! The origin of our Western Civilization is the Protestant Reformation. This was the great movement that destroyed feudalism's twin pillars of oppression: kings and priests. The fundamental human rights to freedom of thought, rule of law and right to private property came from reading the Bible, not Greek philosophy. Man's rights came from his relationship with God, not his relationship with kings and priests. This was the foundation from which all other advances were built on.

With this as the basis of our thesis, lets see how the restoration of the Temple, the City and the Land worked out through history and what the effect was on the world:

A. The Restoration of the Church – Spiritual Reformation

Restoration of the Word

Something happened to the Word of God after the departure of the apostles and early church fathers. The Word was lost. The church was taken over by an antichrist spirit that apostatized it into the apostate Roman Catholic church. The way of salvation was lost, the very Bible the Word of God was lost and anybody that had the courage to preach that word was tortured and burnt by this antichrist entity. Anybody who would actually translate the word into common language for people to understand was burnt at the stake. This desperate onslaught of Satan against the church and its mission to heal the nations almost succeeded.

From 1517 with the emergence of Martin Luther and the Reformation the process of restoration of the Word began. During the centuries that followed the process of restoration was continued with all the great movements of God playing a part in that restoration process:

The Lutherans restored to us the key to salvation; the just shall live by faith and the primacy of scripture.

The Anabaptists restored to us believers baptism and the home church.

The Calvinists restored to us the doctrines of the depravity of man, the sovereignty of God and the election of the saints.

The Presbyterians restored to us the leadership of elders in the church.

The Puritans restored to us holiness and the separation of the church from state and the world.

The Congregationalists restored to us the primacy and independence of the local church.

The Wesleyans restored to us hymns, mass evangelism and the sanctifying work of the Holy Spirit.

The Baptists restored to us revival meetings, adult baptism and missions.

The English evangelical social activists restored to us the power of the gospel to change our society with abolition of slavery, building societies for housing for workers, insurance for widows, Sunday Schools for educating children, pensions for retired workers, Bible Societies and missions into the British Empire.

Restoration of Power

From the beginning of the 20th Century with the outpouring of the Holy Spirit in the Azusa Street revival which spread all over the world a new phenomenon was taking place. Previously the Lord was restoring doctrine to the church, now He began restoring the gifts and power of the Spirit to the church.

The first most dramatic gift of the Spirit that was restored was speaking in tongues. This had a dramatic effect in the lives of believers as it helped to open their spirits to deeper levels of worship and made them more sensitive to the voice of the Lord.

This was soon followed by the power gifts of healing, faith and the working of miracles. God raised up men like John G. Lake who came to South Africa with a wonderful gift of healing that drew crowds to hear the gospel and many were saved, healed and delivered. Smith Wigglesworth and many other men of faith restored the gifts of healing to the church.

Restoration of the Five Fold Ministry

From the 1950's we saw a dramatic restoration in the five fold leadership ministry of the Apostles, Prophets, Pastors, Teachers and Evangelists. The first were the great evangelists

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like Billy Graham and Oral Roberts filling tents and stadiums all over the world reaching millions for the Kingdom. At the same time a new level of prophets were being raised with miraculous words of knowledge, discerning of spirits and gifts of prophecy. Men like William Branham, Kenneth Hagin and others had enormous impact on the church with their prophet's anointing. When William Branham came to South Africa in 1951 it shook the entire nation with the miracles that were very evident in each meeting. At the great Durban gathering 40,000 people came to Christ in salvation. The charismatic movement in South Africa was greatly advanced from that time on. This was repeated in many nations of the world as God raised up a great prophetic movement.

During the 60's and 70's saw a great emerging of teaching ministries. Thousands gathered in halls and stadiums to hear men teach the word. I remember in the 1970's attending a Bill Gothard seminar with 10,000 other people for a week of intensive teaching.

During the 1970's and 1980's you have the rise of new Apostolic ministries, men who pioneered new works of God in amazing creative ways. Loren Cunningham raised up thousands of young people in YWAM to go into all the world. Thousands of YWAM'ers in turn started many thousands of new churches and ministry outreaches. Others launched new ministries in the media through satellite TV; others started Christian schools and universities.

What the Lord was doing in the emergence of these new leadership structures was to restore to us the anointing for leadership that came not because of education or because you are the president of an organization, but because you have a calling and an anointing for the job. The mold of denominational structures was breaking down and the Lord was doing a new thing in His church.

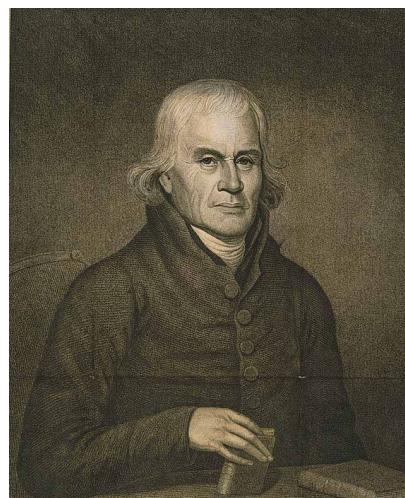
Restoration of Worship

With the restoration of doctrine, gifts of the spirit and true leadership in the church, it allowed for new levels of praise and worship to

begin manifesting itself in our churches. We moved beyond three hymns, the offering and the sermon to allowing the Holy Spirit to take control of our gatherings and letting people move in deeper levels of worship. New music centered on praise and worship has been emerging in the church over the last twenty years. This has an impact not only in our charismatic churches but has greatly impacted all evangelical churches. Here in South Africa I can't even recognize some of our Dutch Reformed Churches anymore. Many have introduced new levels of praise and worship in their meetings and the people have responded by the thousands.

But have we come to the end of the process of restoration? For many evangelicals the answer is yes. The Lord can now come and rapture us out of here. But I say no. All that has happened until now is that the Lord has been raising His army and equipping them and training them. There is still the work ahead of "healing the nations", there is still the great task of destroying all the works of Satan and crushing his head; there is still the work of taking dominion over all the works of His hands; there is still a greater manifestation of His glory in the church coming. It will come with the restoration of the church as community – a new wineskin for a new outpouring (see chapter 12).

B. Restoration the Levites Ministry – Social Reformation



John Wesley

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The revivals of the Wesleyan movement in England of the late 1700's had a profound social effect on the nation and from there on the world. John Wesley went up and down England holding massive open air revival meetings in late 1700's England, traveling more than 250,000 miles on horseback, 40,000 sermons and organized his vast revivals into home meetings and open air preaching. His "Methodist" followers were not only eager for preaching repentance but they had a passion for social upliftment. They started schools and orphanages and aid societies for the poor and destitute. This had a major impact in the British Parliament and the Quaker industrialists of early 1800's.

A recent book by Deborah Cadbury called "Chocolate Wars" gives a fascinating insight into the origins and impact of the great chocolate makers of England in the early 19th Century. All the great English chocolate dynasties, the Cadbury's, the Rowntree's and Fry's, were Quakers. In early 1800's when Methodists were looked down upon, Quakers were really beyond the pale. They weren't called "Quakers" for nothing but they really loved the Lord and served Him with a passion. At that time they were banned from careers in government, the church, law or the military. And so that left them only with work in commerce. But even there they refused to do anything to do with alcohol, gambling or armaments. So they got into the food industry, specifically chocolates....and prospered mightily!

It is what they did with their wealth that changed the course of history. They showed remarkable compassion to their workers in an age of child labor, abuse of workers and total neglect by government or the state church of the needs of the common worker. Factory conditions were horrendous with no worker rights. These evangelical industrialists changed all that.

- They got children out of the factories and started "Sunday schools" for the workers children so that they could get a basic education.
- They limited the working week and working hours so that workers could have a family life.

- They provided a pension for old retired workers and decent weekly wages for their workers.
- They built decent houses for their workers in the form of entire new towns. The Cadbury's built Bourneville which still stands today as a town.
- When they found out that their chocolate beans were being produced by slave labor they started small worker owned plantations in Ghana.
- And most importantly from a purely business viewpoint, they produced great products at good prices and their constant innovations in the sweets industry beat out the competition and produced profits for their ministry work.

The actions of the evangelicals in early 1800's England shamed the entire nation, Wilberforce in parliament shaming the nation over slavery and the Quakers in commerce over worker rights. It caused a social outcry across the nation that made others demand similar rights and benefits as the workers in the Quaker factories. Social legislation soon followed in Parliament dealing with labor laws, pensions and schooling for children. Europe had to follow and Bismarck in Germany established the first social democracy. It was the evangelical church that started the social revolution of human rights and worker rights that was taken up by other political groups across Europe and eventually all over the world. It was the work of the Levites ministry being restored for the blessing of the nations.

The church leads the way, the world tries to follow but here is my prediction...they won't be able to keep up with us in the future the Lord has planned for us. The world will come to us and say "teach us your ways" (Micah 4). But to do this we as a church need to get off their agenda and start setting the pace and the vision for the future.

C. Possessing the Land – Economic Reformation

I made the assertion that the key to understanding why the West advanced so far

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with regard to the rest of the world over the last 500 years was because of the preaching of the gospel starting in the 1500 with what is known as the Reformation. All civilizations around the world up to that point labored under the bondage of feudalism and it was the doctrinal teachings of Luther and Calvin that destroyed the authority of the twin pillars of feudalism: the kings and its attendant nobility and the priesthoods and their various orders.

This revolution resulted in a new standard of authority: the rule of law. Now all powers were to be subject to the rule of law. Those that did not such as Charles 1 in his fight to maintain his “divine right” to absolute power lost his head to the Puritan Parliament and its army under Cromwell. In Lutheran Europe unfortunately this half of the revolution did not succeed as the German princes co-opted the church into the state system with salaries and official state status.

In England, King James tried the same but the Puritan church resisted and stayed outside of the Church of England, much to the great anger of the King and his son Charles after him. This allowed the English revolution to proceed to the next level of liberation which was to curb the power of the king and make him subject to Parliament. It was this curbing of both the power of the king and priests in three critical nations, England, Holland and Scotland that allowed these three nations to become the leaders in the 1600's in financial power and scientific advances.

The Luther and Calvin theological revolutions in these three countries laid these foundations in their general societies:

- All are subject to the law of God even the king
- The Bible is the specific revelation of God to man and nature is the general revelation of God to man and it is incumbent upon all men to seek God's revelation through study of His Word and study of His creation
- The priesthood is unnecessary for interpreting God to man and unnecessary

for salvation; revelation and salvation are in the hands of each seeker after truth.

This new common understanding among the people of these three nations came about because people read the Bible, the only widely available book to read in a time where there were no media, no novels or magazines. People read the Bible! The result of this was an atmosphere of freedom. Freedom to work, freedom to worship, freedom to travel, freedom to explore, freedom to investigate the world that God made. This resulted in massive increases in knowledge, trade and wealth. This produced greater freedom to explore, produce and study.

The other things that common people soon discovered in the Bible especially from reading the story of Israel and the commandments of the Old Testament was that there were guidelines in the Bible for political and economic affairs and should one follow these commandments the Lord promised great economic prosperity and blessing and national victory over your enemies.

Let me outline for you the seven broad political/economic principles taught in the Old Testament that promised blessing and which when applied by the nations of the West starting with England, Scotland and Holland resulted in economic wealth and national power. The Lord told Israel as they came out of Egyptian slavery that He had a wonderful promised land before them and gave them instructions as to how they were to possess this land and how to govern themselves. The Puritans of England, Scotland and Holland believed these instructions and applied them to their political and economic philosophy:

1) The Rule of Law

God gave instructions to Israel that they were not to have a king over them, the Lord was to be their King. They were to be ruled by judges who would apply the law to the land and people. Today we call this kind of political structure a Republic. This was a 1000 years before Plato's Republic. If they did demand a king (as they asked Samuel the prophet) then the Lord said

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that king was to rule according to God's law, even the king was to be subject to the rule of law. Today we call that a constitutional monarchy.

2) Diffusion of Power

The entire nation of Israel was to be divided into tribes or what we today call provinces in order for power to be dispersed and no central strong power to oppress the people. Furthermore two other authorities were established apart from the tribes and the king. The Priesthood which was independent of king and provinces and the Levites who were given 42 cities where they were responsible for health, education, welfare, justice, social upliftment. Today the separation of powers is entrenched around the world as a sound form of government.

3) Private Property

In a world that for millennia was dominated by kings and priests and where these owned the land, the promise of the Lord to the enslaved Israelites that He was taking them to a land where each family was to be title holder to their own piece of land, this was revolutionary! Not only were the common people to own land but they were each to have asset producing property as well. The Lord said each was to sit under his own vine and fig tree. The property rights were extended to male and female heirs meaning women had equal property rights to men. Again, unheard of for thousands of years!

4) Sound Money

The Lord demanded that Israel was to have equal weights and balances. In that day money was a measure of weight. You had a standard weight measure and you counted out gold or silver on the other side of the scales. False weights meant you short changed someone in a transaction. For millennia kings and emperors debased their coins with clipping or additions of copper or other metals. The Roman empire was destroyed by a debased currency. God hates inflation! God hates fraudulent transactions. Sound money and just trade relations are principles of God's requirement for prosperity.

5) The Jubilee Principle

The Jubilee Principle relates to God's commandment to Israel of what was to happen in the seventh year and the fiftieth year. Every seventh year all debt was to be forgiven and every fiftieth year all property assets in the nation was to be distributed in the nation. From this Jubilee concept two important economic principles were developed that greatly increased prosperity.

The first was the concept of "limited liability". If you got into financial trouble you did not lose your financial independence for the rest of your life. You can start over again debt free. This developed in England and Holland in the formation of the first limited liability stock companies by which investors and entrepreneurs could join forces and create new wealth producing ventures by taking on limited risk. Investors could limit their liability to the capital they subscribed (in case the venture failed) and enjoy the fruits of a successful venture should it succeed.

The fifty year Jubilee capital dispersal program of Israel provided for the principle of diverse capital diffusion in the nation. The Lord wanted all the citizens of the nation to participate in the wealth production of the economy. In the days of Israel land was the major source of wealth production. God wanted each Israelite family to be the owner of productive capital. This established the principle of two sources of income. Labour income from your daily work and passive income from productive capital investment (each one owning vines and fig trees).

As wealth production moved to industry and the money economy, the development of the stock market, bond market and pension funds established the principle of capital diffusion throughout society. Everyone could participate in the productive income of the nation through a dividend. Today unfortunately productive capital assets are now concentrated in the hands of the few leaving the vast majority of people with only labour income when there are jobs to be had. The result has been economic misery as

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the vast majority of people do not have the buying power from labour income alone to absorb the production of the economy. So debts must be created to spend next year's salary for today's needs.

The Russian economist Kondratieff discovered the Jubilee principle when he found out that every 50 years there is an economic collapse as more and more of the capital wealth of a nation is concentrated in fewer and fewer hands and the economy loses spending power by the workers. Debts accumulate and industry collapses leading to depression and debt defaults.

6) Voluntary tithe tax

The Lord promised Israel financial blessings if they tithed. But unlike our church teachings on tithing, the tithe then was voluntary and was paid to the Levites for the administration of the nation. They were the national bureaucracy and the tithe was the tax of the day. The Levites in turn paid a tithe to the priest of the Temple. Another voluntary tithe was to be paid every third year for distribution to the poor. So the NGO sector of the nation was supported by voluntary contributions and not coercive tax extraction. A nation that cares for its social services through the voluntary work of its caring people supported by voluntary contributions of the people is far better able to meet the social needs of the people than through coercive taxes collected and wasted by government bureaucrats. God's success principle for Israel was that the social work of the nation was to be done by the people...not a central government!

7) The Sabbath Principle

The Sabbath principle was that every seventh day and every seventh year a person and the land was to be at rest and be restored. Land was the productive sector of the economy and needed to be restored so that it could produce more. The principle is sound. We need to invest in our productive capacity through study, skills development, reflection and relaxation. When this is applied in a modern economy the productive powers of the economy are greatly enhanced. Every person who wishes to be more

productive must set aside a period of time for study and skills development. Every economy that wants to grow must divert a portion of its production from consumer goods to production goods and infrastructure. The Bible taught this principle. The seventh day rest also declared to man that a day be set aside for the worship of the Lord and seeking His face and His word. It makes for the other six days to be far more productive and happy.

These were the broad economic and political principles that the broad section of society accepted as the Bible and its teachings became more and more dispersed in the 16th and 17th Centuries. They form the basis from which the West developed its economic, scientific and political power. The usual propaganda from historians that our western culture sprang from Greece is utter nonsense. Athens produced a democracy for a brief period of about 80 years that everyone raves about forgetting it collapsed in anarchy as the "democrats" voted for pensions and wars of conquests resulting in the Peloponnesian Wars and the destruction of Athens. The so-called Founding Fathers of America despised democracy. They chose a Republic. The ordinary soldiers of the Dutch and English civil wars did not carry a copy of Greek philosophers into battle. They carried a musket, sword and Bible.

Our Western Civilization was built on the foundation of the Bible and the preaching of the gospel!

What has happened world wide is that each and every nation that wants to progress and be productive must apply these principles. When China was ruled by Mao it starved and was poor. But in 1978 Deng Tsao Peng became the leader and he made profound changes to the nations laws. He gave the peasants property rights to the land and allowed them freedom to produce for the market. The result was incredible increases in food production and wealth creation.

To the extent that any nation follows the rules of the Bible for government and economy... that

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nation will prosper. These are universal laws of God applicable to all people. It was the Reformation and the Puritan armies and their Bibles that fought for these rights. That is what caused the destruction of feudalism in England, which resulted in the rule of law and personal freedom, which resulted in the economic revolution, which produced the scientific revolution, which produced the medical revolution...which all produced the social revolution...which all produced our Western Civilization that all the world has now tried to copy with varying degrees of success and failure.

The Neo-Feudalism of the 21st Century

But modern man has forgotten where the wealth, freedom and advances of the last 500 years came from. They think it comes from clever men. They have forgotten the Biblical roots of the modern world's progress. As mankind abandons the roots of the Reformation he will return to the barbarism of a Neo-Feudalism that is taking over the nations of the world.

But it is not a return to king's and priests. Today it is a triumvirate of government, banks and corporations that have taken over the political and economic freedom of the common people. And it was the common people who gave them that power. Israel begged Samuel, "Give us a king that he might fight our battles for us!". People always want someone else to do the work, someone else to bear their burdens. Samuel warned them that the king would tax them into poverty and take their sons and daughters into his service and into wars...but they would not heed his warnings. They wanted a king to fight their battles for them.

Today people cry out for more government to care for them. Provide for our healthcare, provide for our welfare, provide for our old age. Provide jobs for us. Care for us. And so they vote for politicians who promise them with each election more benefits and more help. And who pays? Not me. Cut taxes, raise spending and borrow the difference and let the next generation pay for our needs.

The results are everywhere to be seen. The common people today are nothing more than the wage serfs of the corporate and government elite. The productive assets of the nations are concentrated in fewer and fewer hands. People have rejected the Lord and His Word. The Lord has sold them into the slavery of the Corporate Financial State. Each year thousands of new laws limit more and more freedoms. Each year more and more debt accumulate to pay for unsustainable lifestyles. Each year more of the earth is polluted by more and more corporate interests that put profits ahead of all else. Each year the families of the earth shrink and become de-capitalized and the next generation of children are becoming fewer, dumber, fatter and unskilled.

The people of the earth are as enslaved today to the corporate/banking/government hierarchy as the serfs of the Dark Ages were to their feudal overlords of church and nobility.

This entire world-wide economic and political house of cards is going to implode. Like the Israelites coming out of Egypt before judgment fell, like the Jews coming out of Babylon, like the church coming out of pagan feudal Europe; so our church of the 21st Century will have to exit out of a falling Babylon New World Order as it descends into old world disorder.

It is time for a new Reformation. We already have the Word and the ministries restored to us and the power of His Spirit. What we need is a new expression of the church. We need to possess the land (the economy), we need to rebuild our New Jerusalem (our communities), we need to show the nations and the people of the earth the way out of the Neo-Feudalism that has spread over the world.

It will take redesigning our economies to reflect the Lord's Kingdom economy. It will take redesigning our educational systems, our governing systems, our social systems, our communities all to reflect the Kingdom agenda of our Lord.